

**PROPOSAL 111**

**5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry.**

Limit nonresident take of raptors to one bird every four years and limit unsuccessful permittees from applying the following year as follows:

Proposed regulation: 5 AAC 92.037(g)(5). Up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry by a nonresident shall be issued annually by the department. If a permittee successfully takes a raptor, that person would be ineligible to take another raptor for four calendar years.

If an applicant draws a nonresident capture permit, that applicant, if unsuccessful, will be ineligible to apply for a nonresident capture permit the following year.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5 AAC 92.037(g)(5). Up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry by a nonresident shall be issued annually by the department:

This proposal requests that the Board of Game (board) place a limit on raptors to allow a take of one raptor every four years by a nonresident. This request will prevent a falconer who successfully takes a raptor from applying for another permit for four years.

The proposer also requests that the board require that: “if an applicant draws a nonresident capture permit, that applicant, if unsuccessful, will be ineligible to apply for a nonresident capture permit the following year. This language is currently applicable for all other big game drawing permits the state administers.

Gyrfalcons in Alaska maintain a low-density population. Two published studies estimate 300 to 500 breeding pairs statewide. Gyrfalcons have been targeted almost 100 percent of the time by nonresident falconers and since the inception of the nonresident permit system in 2014, ten gyrfalcons and one northern goshawk have been taken by nonresident falconers during the first five years of the program. Two specific individuals have drawn two permits and have taken two Gyrfalcons in five years, and one individual has drawn three permits and has taken 3 raptors which include two gyrfalcons and one northern goshawk in five years. The chance of an applicant drawing a nonresident capture permit is about 1 in 5. Alaska Falconers Association (AFA) has had numerous contacts with unsuccessful applicants asking that the State implement a system that limits successful applicants to one gyrfalcon every four years. Gyrfalcons are highly sought after birds by both breeders and falconers alike. The “one in four” management method is used in several areas by department managers when there is a reason to create opportunity for as many applicants as possible .

The Board of Game’s stated intent when nonresident take was implemented in 2014, was to give the nonresident falconer an opportunity to capture a raptor from a species that does not normally occur in the continental United States, and use that raptor as a falconry bird.

Up to five permits for passage, hatch year raptors will still be issued by the department. This proposed request from AFA will spread out the available opportunity, allowing different nonresident falconers an opportunity take a raptor from Alaska.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Falconers Association (EG-F20-039)

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